

MALTESE E-NEWSLETTER

The Journal of Maltese Living Abroad

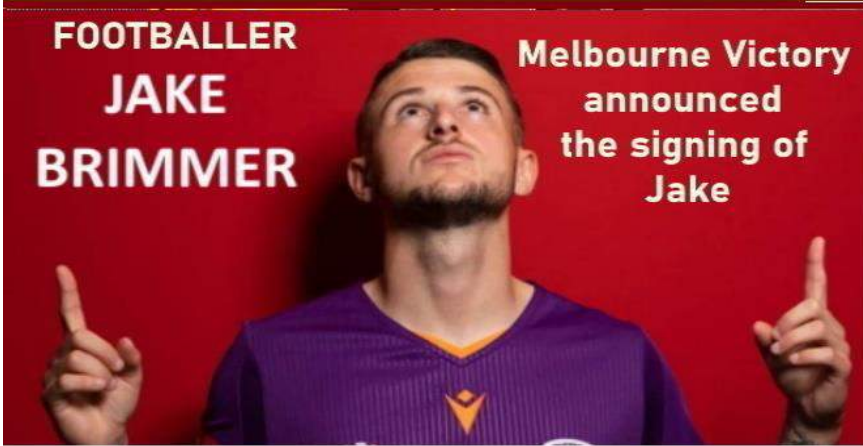
Editor: Frank L Scicluna

maltesejournal@gmail.com



FOOTBALLER
**JAKE
BRIMMER**

Melbourne Victory
announced
the signing of
Jake



Christmas
2020???



The Pontifical Swiss Guard



**NURSE OF THE
MEDITERRANEAN
WORLD WAR
ONE**



Sterling Silver Maltese Cross



The art of filigree



Covid-19 - Message of Hope from the President of Malta



In a message to the nation,
President

George Vella made an appeal for people to safeguard their mental wellbeing, while abiding by regulation issued by health authorities

The President said in a statement that he has been following development on COVID-19, and is keeping tabs on the pandemic's impact on people's physical and mental health, as well as its toll on the economy.

Vella stated that while it is good to constructively criticise shortcoming surrounding the pandemic, nothing should hinder a collective effort in battling the virus.

He said that everyone should be towing the same rope and cooperating fully with the authorities.

The President said that he is aware of the sacrifices being made by people in abiding by health regulation, those who are leading the fight against the virus and of those looking after victims.

Vella also expressed his appreciation at the work done by carers in elderly homes, teachers and educators as well as those coming face-to-face with the virus.

Noting the change in regulation surrounding the burial of COVID-19 victims, Vella said that this should help family members to mourn. He also expressed solidarity with the victims' relatives.

The President called on people to renew their commitment in battling the threat that is COVID-19, stating that this difficult time will soon be over, as the arrival of the vaccine is expected soon.

Vella concluded by voicing his hope that those leading the country strike a good balance between safeguarding people's health and ensuring the economy's survival.



I want the whole nation to stay strong so that we overcome this pandemic with the least possible harm.



H.E. George Vella
President of Malta

#Covid19



Covid-19: Eleven cases among Swiss Guards

A communiqué from the Pontifical Swiss Guard Corps announces that cases of coronavirus infection among its members have increased to eleven.

"As a result of testing carried out in recent days, seven other positive results have emerged among the Swiss Guards, bringing the total number of infected to eleven."

The Pontifical Swiss Guard Corps reported the

news in a statement on Thursday evening.

Measures to contain spread

The press release says "arrangements were immediately made to isolate those with positive cases and all appropriate further steps are being taken, along with additional testing. In the meantime, in addition to what has already been ordered by the Governorate of Vatican City State to contain Covid-19 infection, other effective measures have been taken, also regarding rotation planning for the Guards, in order to exclude any risk of contagion in those places where the Pontifical Swiss Guard serve."

The communiqué concludes affirming that "the Swiss Guard Corps will communicate further developments on the situation in the coming days."



PONTIFICAL SWISS GUARD

Dressed in their iconic yellow, red and blue uniforms, the Vatican's Swiss Guard might remind you of jesters from Renaissance times. These guards make up one of the most skilled armies in the world. This colorful combat is made up of just 135 guards, making it the world's smallest army. These guards are tasked with protecting the Pope and the Apostolic Palace. Visitors on a tour of the Vatican are always fascinated by these eye-catching

guards, now you can be too as we divulge 6 surprising facts we bet you didn't know about the Swiss Guards of the Vatican.

HISTORY OF THE SWISS GUARDS Switzerland might be one of Europe's wealthiest countries today, but 500 years ago the Swiss economy was struggling, and young men often traveled abroad as mercenaries. These mercenaries were skillfully trained fighters and as a result they were highly sought after in Renaissance Europe. In 1506, Pope Julius II established the Pontifical Swiss Guard, making it among the oldest military units in continuous operation. The Swiss Guards you'll see in post on your Vatican tour still retain a lot of the customs and quirks they held during the Renaissance era.

THE REQUIREMENTS Before applying to the posts, candidates must ensure that they meet strict requirements. Each recruit must be a single male of Swiss citizenship. They must measure at least 5' 8" tall and be between the ages of 19 and 30. They must be educated and hold either a high school degree or a professional diploma. Needless to say, each recruit must be a devote Roman Catholic and their application must be endorsed by their local parish priest.

TRAINING Each recruit is required to complete basic military training in Switzerland. This will be followed by a five-week induction training course in Rome. After this first training period Swiss soldiers are called Halberdiers. This title derives from the primary weapons of halberds that Swiss mercenaries used in the 14th and 15th century. When training is complete, Halberdiers are sworn in and they and their families are invited to a private audience with the Pope.

WORKING LIFE The Swiss Guards along with the Pontifical Gendarmerie are responsible for safeguarding the Vatican and protecting the Pope.

In addition to their security tasks, the Swiss Guards also carry out ceremonial duties, such as a guard of honor at receptions and audiences.

The shortest contract given from the Vatican to a Swiss Guard is 25 months. Once a Halberdier's contract begins they are required to attend Italian language classes. By the end of their first year of service the soldiers will be ready to take up guard duty at the main gates of the Vatican. These are the guards you'll see helping tourists as you take your tour of Vatican City.

When a Swiss guard is standing in silence with his halberd in hand, he is on Honor Duty. This means he should not be approached. However, if he is standing with his hands folded and facing the crowds, he may be approached for questions or maybe even for a photo.

UNIFORM The most common Swiss Guard uniform you'll see, on your Vatican City tour, is the blue duty uniform. However, most people associate them with their red, yellow and blue striped ensemble. These colorful costumes are called Gala uniforms and are worn when guards take up more ceremonial duties. You'll find guards with this distinctly Renaissance appearance as you exit St. Peter's Basilica on your Vatican Museums tour. This style of gala uniform has been worn by Swiss Guards since 1910.

These eye-catching ensembles are tailor-made to fit each guard. They are sewn by tailors inside the Vatican barracks and it takes about 30 hours to create each uniform! Despite taking so long to make, a guard's personal uniforms are all destroyed after they complete their service.

It's interesting to note that some of the armor Swiss Guards use even today are original pieces from the 15th century! Specialized blacksmiths are tasked with replacing armor when these older items can not be fixed. In keeping with tradition, the ostrich feathered morion helmets worn by Swiss Guards, still hold the family symbol of Pop Julius II, the oak tree.

SWISS GUARDS IN BATTLE While the majority of duties upheld by Swiss Guards are peaceful, they have been involved in some devastating battles through the ages. Their most significant military engagement was in 1527 when 190 guards were killed during a battle with the Holy Roman Empire. This battle, known as the Sack of Rome, allowed for Pope Clement VII to flee to safety through the hidden tunnels emerging from the Vatican. The Pope's Swiss Guards are an iconic part of the Vatican

PRESENTATION AT THE CONSULATE GENERAL OF MALTA IN NSW

Malta Rugby League General Manager, David Axisa was at the Maltese Consulate in Sydney today for talks with Consulate General of Malta, Lawrence Buhagiar where he presented a personalised signed jersey and Rugby League match ball. Axisa met Mr Buhagiar at the Government Building today, before discussions took place regarding initiatives within the Maltese community based in NSW. The jersey Mr Buhagiar was presented with was the shirt worn by Malta's National Rugby League Team which recently participated in the Emerging Nations World Championship (RLENWC) held in Sydney.

CONSULATE-GENERAL FOR MALTA IN NEW SOUTH WALES



That tournament of course secured Malta's passage to the main title as World Champions in the first time the small island had entered the tournament. The last time the RLENWC took place was in 2000 when Great Britain defeated Italy 20-14 in the final at Dewsbury, England. Mr Buhagiar

will support the team next year as MRL officials are in discussions with several nations regarding International Test matches for the 2019 calendar.

Chaplain travels to Comino every Saturday to celebrate mass, come rain or shine

Main painting in the Comino chapel recently restored

[Kristina Cassar Dowling

Mgr Guzepp Attard PHOTO: Mark Zammit Cordina

Every Saturday morning, come rain or shine, Mgr. Guzepp Attard makes his way from his home in Nadur, Gozo, to the Comino chapel where he says mass - sometimes to a handful of people.

"You'd be surprised by the amount of people within our community, we generally hold mass every Saturday in the chapel and there always seems to be a good turnout. Sometimes I read my sermon to a handful of people, and other times to 80 people. It very much depends on who is on the island at the time," says Attard the chaplain of The Chapel of the Return from Egypt on the secluded island of Comino.

"What always surprises me, and encourages me to keep serving in my community, is the constant change in the people I minister to. The majority are campers, those who travel by boat to hear my teachings and the few residents that call Comino their home," he says. Read the full story here and learn about the recently restored titular painting: <http://sundaycircle.tom-mag.com/27/index.html#issue/32>



A LETTER OF APPRECIATION

Thanks very much for dedicating so much of your time to send to our houses your very interesting "Maltese Journal".

We, the Maltese diaspora, dispersed in so many different countries, feel somehow united thanks to this newsletter.

I can assure you that you are not wasting your time. My regards.

Msgr. George Frendo O.P.

Archbishop of Tirana, Albania

October 2020



TUNED IN: Fr Rob Galea said his FRG Ministry's online services have experienced a ten-fold increase in use since the onset of COVID-19.

Picture: Darren Howe

You might recognise the face. And now even more people will as priest Father Rob Galea is pulling parishioners from all over the world to his Bendigo ministry.

The founder of FRG Ministry, Fr Galea quit a national talent show after struggling to balance the demands of the show with pastoral commitments. In 2015 he stepped down during the time-intensive boot camp phase of *The X Factor* to focus on his parish.

Now, thanks to the coronavirus pandemic, that parish is growing to all parts of the world.

"We have had an online presence for six years and it's really increased in the past two years, but since March, interest has spiked ten-fold," Fr Galea said. COVID-19 has forced people to recalibrate and seek a faith-based outlet, according to Fr Galea.

On Sunday, I sit in a chapel in Bendigo in front of a camera with 10,000 people watching and praying with me. Fr Rob Galea

"People want to stay connected with their communities, not only with God," he said.

"Every Sunday, our live mass attracts 10,000 people who comment and share a connection with each other." Worshipers from Tanzania to Iraq have flocked in increasing numbers to FRG Ministry's digital offering.

Fr Galea said this new age way of bringing faith to people's lives hasn't always been well received.

"At the outset, there was a lot less support for what I was doing than there is now," Fr Galea said.

"People used to criticise me because I was online, saying I was just a show person. "Those people now reach out because the virtual community is where people spend a lot of their time."

Fr Galea said his online ministry, which includes podcasts, educational resources, sermons and

Australian-Maltese Fr Rob Galea is pulling in parishioners from across the world - to Bendigo, Victoria

Nicholas Nakos

live music performances, was never conceived to replace churches.

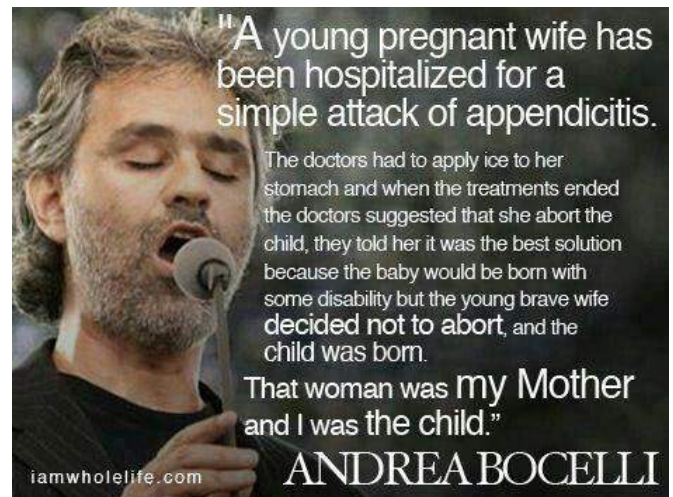
"Our aim has always been to supplement what is offered already," he said.

"There will always be people who can't go to church because they are unwell or isolated. In no way does the virtual reality replace the beauty and tangibility of a community of faith."

FRG Ministry has grown beyond Fr Galea's wildest expectations.

"I'm at a place I would have never imagined," he said. "On Sunday, I sit in a chapel in Bendigo in front of a camera with 10,000 people watching and praying with me."

"How could anyone have imagined something like that?"



WE INVITED THE MEMBERS OF THE COUNCIL OF MALTESE LIVING ABROAD TO PARTICIPATE IN THIS JOURNAL – SO FAR WE HAVEN'T RECEIVED ANY RESPONSE. WHY?



The intricate art of the Filigree has added a gentle touch to the Maltese local market. Not only is it inimitable but it adds value to Malta's heritage.

The art of filigree can be traced back to ancient Egypt and can be found throughout the Mediterranean and Asia. **Filigree is a delicate art of jewellery that involves the use of fine threads of gold or silver, woven together to create ornate motifs.** More than most other types of jewellery, filigree is valued more for the artisan's skill than the actual material used. The more intricate and ornate the design, the more valuable the object.

Malta's filigree legacy dates back to the Phoenicians who spread this technique throughout the **Mediterranean** and beyond. However, local artisans have made it all their own, with the most prominent motif being the eight pointed cross. This ubiquitous symbol is found in different variations, with or without gemstones, gold or silver, and on bracelets, earrings, and brooches.

While filigree can be purchased at most jewellery shops around **Malta** and **Gozo**, the experience of watching the jewellery being made there and then is not one to be missed. Whether at the **Ta' Qali Crafts Village**, or at any obliging jeweller, this delicate and fascinating process is worth watching.

While modern pieces with varying motifs, materials, and quality make an excellent gift, it is the antique pieces that represent the most value. If you're lucky enough to come across these rare pieces, don't pass up the opportunity to purchase a piece of Maltese heritage.

Silver Filigree workshop at Palazzo Falson

Experience a specialised workshop about the traditional art form of filigree by artist Kevin Attard set in the historic Palazzo Falson. The workshop on the 28th October from 11.00 am to 2.00 pm will be held in a spacious room in the museum that can safely accommodate a small group of participants for the hands-on workshop.

The session will start with an orientation tour of the historic house museum by a trained Museum Host with a focus on the filigree collection, followed by a filigree demonstration by Kevin. Light refreshments will be served at the new café and bistro, Gustav.

In the second session you will have the opportunity to try out your hand at making your own filigree ring, under the guidance of the artist himself, and take home your creation. Early booking recommended due to limited number of persons accepted. The workshop may be booked as a gift voucher. You may send an email on bookings@palazzofalson.com or call us on 21454512.

Upon booking you will receive COVID-19 safety measures which must be followed throughout the workshop. *This content was supplied by Palazzo Falson - NEWSBOOK*

**Maltese
e-Newsletter**



**Journal of Maltese
Living Abroad**

*We would like to thank all the readers
who sent a donation to help us
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Please, donate

COMING TO AUSTRALIA MY STORY DANIEL MALLIA



Family Group at Malta Airport before we left



My children going to school



My children playing in the backyard

Ever since I was a toddler I have always dreamt about Australia as a heavenly country. I loved MALTA and its beautiful European central location and its historical heritage. At 71 years of age I do get nostalgic dreams of those times back home in those narrow streets of Valletta and the two beautiful harbours Marsamxett and the grand harbour. I could never forget those lovely times when our mother used to take us to the Barrakka garden after school, but in spite of those lovely unforgettable times my dreams were also living in the open country of Australia. I do remember as a boy of around five years old my older brother was about to emigrate to Australia. I always looked up to my older brother as he was my hero. The day before he left for Australia he took me to a circus and gave me a three penny coin. Afterwards I bought a bag full of sweets from the 'Rafela' sweet shop across our house in Old Mint Street in Valletta. We were eleven kids in our family and my emigrating brother was the firstborn of the family while I the tenth so there was quite a difference in age. My parents used to tell us a lot of my brother and how he was doing in Australia. My mother had a special song that used to remind her of him and she used to shed a tear or two when she used to talk about him. My father was also very fond of him as he was the first born. They used to tell us how he was doing

and about his Australian life and to cut things short, going to Australia had become my dream.

In 1958 my family moved from Valletta to Hamrun and I started to discover the openness of the fields as the place where we moved to in Guardamangia was just fields and unbuilt then. For the first time in my life I saw a Sunflower as in Valletta we as kids were not allowed much out of the house except for school and church or to go out with our parents. As I grew older I used to read a lot about Australia and never missed any occasion to read any media about it. I grew up into a teenager and soon had a girl friend whose sister was also living in Australia. And both my brother and my girlfriend's sister used to live very near each other. I used to ask my girlfriend often for us to later get married and settle down in Australia but she always said that she would never leave her parents. Time went by and from teenagers we grew into adults, got married in 1972 and within five years we had two very fine boys.

My wife's father passed away just before we got married and her mother passed away in 1976. In Malta the situation was too politicised and a political colour was being given to everything from small to big so around a couple of years later I popped the question of emigrating to Australia again to my wife and to my surprise she said yes.

Very quickly I went to the emigration department and the Australian High Commission to register for emigrating. Within a few months My family and I were accepted as suitable to emigrate so I placed my house for sale, bought British airways plane tickets for the whole family. At that time there were no longer any passage subsidies so I had to pay the full passage. I also applied for six months of emigrating leave from my teaching job just in case, but I was determined to make a good effort and stick it out as I knew a lot about Australia and knew what to expect.

The departure day had arrived and on the 26th November 1982 we were at the airport ready to board the British Airways plane to London in transit to Australia. In London we only had one hour chance to change Terminals to board another airplane for Australia. I have never been out of Malta before and had no travelling experience except from what I used to read about. I had to put on a brave face and show confidence in front of my family in London while changing terminals en route to Australia to let my wife and kids think that I knew exactly what I was doing.

The only airport I knew was that of Malta which was so small and less busy when compared to Heathrow, Malaysian or Singapore airports through which we had to go through. According to my two kids of four and eight years old their father was in full control and knew exactly what I was doing where in fact I had no idea and was learning as I went along.

Two days later on November 28th at 6:00 am we landed at Sydney airport and I fell in love with my adopted country as soon as I stepped off the plane onto solid ground. My wife's sister and her husband together with my brother and all of his family were at the airport waiting for us. It was a wonderful feeling being with others who knew more about it than I did and my confidence took a huge step forward. We arrived in Australia on a Sunday morning and were at Blacktown by 11:00am by the time we went through the customs. We loved the wide clean streets and the quietness of the place and at times I could here for the first time in life the train passing through Doonside. That evening I noticed that the sky somehow looked bigger than what I used to know in Malta. The following morning we took our first born son to the nearby school to be enrolled and we were persuaded to leave him there for the day. We felt very bad about it and thought that it might be a bit cruel to do so but I do believe in 'taking the leap'. My son made us so proud that day when we picked him up later on that day after school.

Our younger son was not of school age yet so he stayed home with us. On that Monday we registered for the social service and enrolled in the MBF as that was what we were advised to do. Later on that week we also applied to become members of the Blacktown Workers Club. Joining a club at that time was a privilege and had to wait six months before you were accepted. Upon being accepted as a member, the membership card was presented in a ceremony on a stage from the club president. Times have really changed since then.

When arriving in Australia I gathered that the months of November to January were very bad times to look for employment as most of the factories had their annual shutdown periods. Also unfortunately there was a lot of unemployment around the time that when

we arrived in 1982 as well so for the first time in my life I was unemployed until March 1983. Racism was still around at that time and at one time my wife was crying as some youths called her 'Wog' at West Point shopping centre in Black town but I persuaded her to ignore such remarks as they only belittle those who utter them. We as a family were determined to make a good go at settling here in Australia. I bought a Holden Belmont HJ station wagon from an auction place near St Mary and used to go looking for a job every morning till around 11:00 after which I use to take my family out and explore the countryside. We stayed the first couple of weeks with my wife's sister and afterwards we rented a small place in the same street. The landlord then demanded six months rent in advance as we were newcomers in the country and had no credit history.

I got my first job and things started to get better. We bought our first house and moved from one job to another while changing my position to another in order to improve my situation. Cutting the lawn on weekends when I was not working overtime was a good treat as I loved the smell of fresh cut lawn. I also spend a lot of time during the weekend working on the car by installing stuff that I use to buy from the wrecker and practically changing my Holden Belmont into a luxury car with electric windows, bucket seats, T-Bar Auto from Manual shift....etc...etc.

Since those times a long time have passed and I do sometimes wonder how we had the courage with two very young boys, my wife and myself to uproot ourselves from Malta where we were sort of comfortable settled down and travel to a far off country to start all over again. But I can only say one thing that that move was one of the best ever moves that I made for my family and I will never look back. None of us do ever regret taking the step of coming to such a beautiful country. Malta will always have a place deep in our hearts and we are extremely proud of our Maltese heritage. We as a family have decided to celebrate the 28th November as our own family Australia Day as that was the day that we stepped on this wonderful land.



THE MALTESE JOURNAL
OUR AIM IS TO KEEP THE MALTESE DIASPORA UNITED AND
TO STRENGTHEN COMMUNICATION,
COOPERATION AND COORDINATION BETWEEN COMMUNITIES
IN MALTA AND ABROAD





EUCHAR GRAVINA
VÉRONIQUE VELLA

MARIELLA CASSAR-CORDINA
ALEXANDER VELLA GREGORY

CHRISTOPHER MUSCAT
ALBERT GARZIA

CONTEMPORARY COLOURS

NEW MUSIC BY MALTESE COMPOSERS

The Malta Philharmonic Orchestra
conducted by Sergey Smbatyan
releases a new CD by Navona Record

<https://www.navonarecords.com/catalog/nv6322/biographies---contemporary-colours---malta-philharmonic.html>

MALTESE IN USA

The Maltese Center in Astoria, NEW YORK is open Friday evenings and all day Sunday with limited capacity outdoors. Please be reminded to wear a face mask that covers your nose and mouth at all times except when consuming food or drinks, stay safely socially distanced, and sanitize hands frequently.

If you have travelled please do not visit until 14 days after and symptom free. With everyone's cooperation we have been thus far successful at keeping our members and visitors safe. We ask member's to stay up to date with their dues and for the Maltese community to consider joining. Your dues not only entitle you to membership but helps the Maltese Center with their building operating budget which will help allow it to continue to exist for generations to come representing Maltese identity in the northeast. Visit us page for more info <https://www.themaltesecenter.com/>



WORKING TOGETHER BRINGS UNITY AND SUCCESS

TIFKIRA TAL-GHARQA TAT-30 T'OTTUBRU 1948

Tmiem Ottubru bosta ilu
grajja kbira f'Ghawdex grat
ghaliex dghajsa bin-nies fuqha
sabet saram f'mewg spjegat.

Kienet gejjja minn gol-Marfa
f'bahar jghola tant harkien,
sakemm gherqet bin-nies fiha,
dlonk lejn Hondoq ir-Rummien

Salvaw erba' mid-disgrazzja,
gherqu sew tlieta w ghoxrin,
grajja kiebja, storja sewda
mhu se jnessu qatt is-snin.
Charles Bezzina

Id-Dghajsa tal-Latini

Pittura ta' Vincenzo d'Esposito (1886-1946)



1948 Gozo luzzu TRAGEDY – 72 years ago

From Wikipedia

The **1948 Gozo luzzu disaster** occurred on 30 October 1948 when a *luzzu* fishing boat carrying passengers from *Marfa, Malta*, to *Mġarr, Gozo*, capsized and sank in rough seas off *Qala*, killing 23 of the 27 people on board. Inquiries held after the accident determined that the boat had been overloaded as it was carrying around double its capacity. The *Gozo ferry* MV *Bancinu* left the harbour of *Mġarr, Gozo* at 13:15, and due to strong winds from the southwest, it landed its passengers at *St. Paul's Bay* instead of at the usual berthing place at *Marfa*. This journey lasted longer than the usual route, and disembarkation at St. Paul's Bay was also slower, so the next scheduled crossing from Marfa of 16:30 was cancelled. However, some passengers who had intended to board this ferry had already departed by bus from *Valletta*. The manager of the ferry service, Mariano Xuereb, promised the stranded passengers that a *luzzu* (a traditional fishing boat) would be provided to take the passengers from Marfa to Gozo, but he then changed his mind and did not send the boat.

A policeman who was among the stranded passengers phoned his superiors in Gozo, who then informed Sergeant S. Galea, a policeman on duty at Mġarr, to make arrangements to pick up the passengers. Another *luzzu* crewed by Salvu Refalo

and Karmnu Grima was sent, and all 25 stranded passengers (24 men and 1 woman) boarded the boat. The number of people on the boat was higher than expected, and despite Refalo and Grima's proposal to make two trips, the passengers insisted on making a single crossing.

The *luzzu* departed Marfa in calm seas, and the trip proceeded uneventfully until the boat passed the island of *Comino*. At this point, the seas became rougher due to the wind direction, and the *coxswain* told the passengers that it would be better to head to the bay of *Hondoq ir-Rummien* than the harbour of Mġarr. However, the passengers disagreed and insisted on going directly to Mġarr.

As the boat was being battered by the waves, one of the passengers, *M.U.S.E.U.M.* member Leli Camilleri, invited them to pray the rosary. At around 20:00, when the boat was about 50 metres (160 ft) away from the shore near an area known as *Il-Ġolf taċ-Ċawl*, water began to enter the boat. The passengers panicked, and the *luzzu* capsized. One of the passengers, Karmnu Attard, managed to swim to shore and went to the village of *Qala* to call the police at Mġarr, informing the authorities about the accident.

The search and rescue operation was undertaken by the police, the *Royal Navy*, the *Royal Air Force* and some Gozitan civilians. The destroyer *HMS Cheviot* was sent to the area, as were a torpedo recovery boat and an RAF launch. The sunken *luzzu* was discovered and it was recovered from the seabed.

Apart from Attard, three other passengers had managed to swim to shore, while the remaining 23 people on board were killed. One of the survivors had reached the *Blata taċ-Ċawl* and had to be hoisted up a cliff to safety. The survivors were taken to the Gozo Hospital.

Seven corpses were recovered by 1 November. RAF aircraft and naval and police vessels continued the search and recovered the remaining bodies over the next few days. Some bodies were found in *Fomm ir-Riġ* six days after the sinking. Post mortem examinations found that most of the victims died of *asphyxia* due to drowning, while others died of *cerebral contusions* and shock.

Governor *Francis Douglas*, Prime Minister *Paul Boffa*, Nationalist Party leader *Enrico Mizzi* and *Democratic Action Party* leader *Giuseppe Hyzler* expressed condolences to the families of the victims.^[1]

A funeral for the first seven victims was held at the *Cathedral of the Assumption* in *Victoria, Gozo* on 3 November. Mass was celebrated by Bishop *Giuseppe Pace*, and it was attended by Prime Minister Boffa, Commissioner for Gozo *Edgar Montanaro*, a representative for the Governor, Gozitan members of parliament and clergy, as well as RAF and police detachments along with the families of the victims. Funerals for other victims were held separately in their hometowns.^[1]

Magistrate *Giovanni Gouder* conducted an inquiry to determine what caused the accident. *Giuseppe Caruana*, the technical expert appointed by Gouder, found that the *luzzu* was capable of carrying up to 13 passengers, meaning that it had been overloaded as it was actually carrying 25 passengers and two crew.

The Prime Minister also set up two committees, one to raise funds for the families of the victims, and another to examine the report of Gouder's inquiry and to make recommendations on what action needs to be taken. The latter was set up after there were anonymous allegations criticizing the police's actions surrounding the accident. On 12 December 1949, this committee stated that Gouder's inquiry was adequate, the police were not at fault, and there was no need for further inquiries.

The committee's recommendations included better enforcement of regulations regarding passenger transport, and that only authorised boats should be allowed to carry passengers. It also stated that no boats should be allowed to carry more passengers than their authorised capacity. One of the

committee members, *Henry Jones*, disagreed with the committee's findings and made a separate report demanding why the 16:30 ferry crossing had been cancelled.

The shipwreck is Gozo's worst disaster since *World War II*, and it is also known as *Jum it-Traġedja* (Day of the Tragedy). A monument commemorating the disaster is located at *Żewwieqa* in *Mġarr* harbour. An annual remembrance ceremony is held on the anniversary of the disaster at the memorial and on board *Gozo Channel Line* ferries.



Dear Mr. Frank Scicluna,
Very many thanks for your
Maltese Journal. Not only I
read it which I find it very
interesting and I read many
things which I never knew
before. After I read your
journals

I conserve them in our
Monastery Library for
the years to come.

If you visit Malta come and
see me. I am an Augustinian
old priest 92 years and have
my family in London Ontario,
Canada.

One of my nephews is
studying at Australia
University. His name is
Mathew Holland.

Thanks a lot. and God bless
you

Fr. Mark Cauchi o.s.a



VJAGGI INFINITI - NOTA TAL-AWTUR Noel Cachia

Dan il-ktieb bl-isem 'Vjaġġi Infiniti' fih għaxar novelli. Huma rakkonti qosra b'tulijiet li jvarjaw, mibnjin fuq għajja ċentrali waħda, b'nisġa ta' fatti li dlonk iwasslu għall-qofol u għall-għeluq. Minkejja dan, dawn l-istejjer iqanqlu ċerti ħsibijiet u kurżitajiet. Il-maġġoranza ta' dawn in-nisġiet fihom sens ta' tkompliġa. Il-mixja li temmu l-karattri permezz tal-mewt qegħdin jissoktawha f'post etern. Jinħassu wkoll ix-xewqat għal din il-ħajja infinita. Drabi oħrajn xi tifikiriet se jibqgħu immortali. Il-qarrej, iżjed u aktar jekk ikun sensittiv, faċli jemozzjona ruħu.

In-novelli tiegħi jvarjaw f'għadd ta' xejriet fosthom sentimentali, deskrittivi, soċjali, reliġjużi, psikoloġiċi, umoristiċi, u didattiċi. F'kull storja xtaqt nuri karattri f'ambjenti u f'sitwazzjonijiet differenti. Ir-rakkonti jittrattaw diversi temi fosthom it-tfulija u n-nostalgija, iż-żgħorija, ir-reliġjon, in-natura, it-tjubija, it-tbatija, il-ħajja, il-mewt, u l-eternità.

Bħalma għamilt fi 'Stejjer ta' Dari u tal-Lum' u f'Talb u Tama', użajt kitba mexxejja, faċli, u ħafifa, biex il-qarrejja jifhmuha u jieħdu gost jaqrawha. Peress li dawn il-pubblikazzjonijiet intlaqgħu tajjeb, nittama li din il-ħarġa 'Vjaġġi Infiniti', tingħoġob ukoll.

Nirringrazzja lill-Professor Oliver Friggieri, lid-disinjatur is-Sur Vincent Bartolo u lill-isponsors ta' dan il-ktieb: Copserv Ltd, Cremona Meat Products, Mcast, Monsinjur Ġużeppi Mifsud Bonnici u Vogue Shoe Repairs.



Meet our newest signing; Jake Brimmer

Jake has a Maltese ancestry

Luke Mannion

Melbourne Victory announced the signing of talented Australian midfielder Jake Brimmer on Friday.

Brimmer, Melbourne-born, became Victory's second pre-season arrival, as Head Coach Grant Brebner continues to bolster the squad. "Jake is a part of an exciting group of players who we believe have an

opportunity to help our club build a bright future," said Brebner. At just 22-years-old, Brimmer has already experienced the highs and lows of professional football – following a spell in England and silverware in Australia. **Liverpool** Brimmer first appeared on Liverpool's radar in 2013 during the club's tour of Australia and was soon signed by the Premier League giants at the age of 16.

In 2014, the young midfielder completed a move to the UK and spent three years with the six-time European champions. While playing within Liverpool's youth teams, Brimmer played alongside the likes of Trent Alexander-Arnold and Joe Gomez. In 2017, the Australian was released by Liverpool and returned home, despite some interest from Kaiserslautern in Germany.

Perth Ahead of the 2017/18 A-League season, Brimmer signed for Perth Glory and immediately became an integral part of the club's midfield.

Under the guidance of Tony Popovic, Brimmer lifted the Premiers Plate in 2019 – as Glory finished eight points ahead of Sydney at the top of the ladder. Overall, the young midfielder made 60 appearances for Perth during a three-year stint in Western Australia.

National team Victory's newest recruit is no stranger to international football, having represented **Australia at youth level since the age of 16. In 2014, Brimmer made the squad for the AFC U16 Championship in Thailand – scoring twice in a 4-2 win over Japan.**

Maltese-Canadian Marathon Runner

He started running again when he was 60

"I am always looking for a new challenge, and after doing numerous shorter races, including five half marathons, I figured it was time to step up to this new challenge, that of running a marat-hon," Mr Camilleri, who had left Malta "for a bit of adventure", told this newspaper.

I am always looking for a new challenge

"Between 1963 and 1969 I was one of Malta's top runners, representing the Alpines Athletics Club (Sliema). Once I emigrated I stopped running altogether though and did not pick it up again until I was 60."

It was when he visited Victoria, in British Columbia, in 2010, and he saw the Terry Fox statue, that Mr Camilleri was inspired to pick up running again.

In the 1960s Joseph Camilleri was a top runner in Malta.



Maltese-Canadian Joseph Camilleri



IT-TIELET ANNIVERSARJU MILL-ASSASSINJU TA' DAPHNE CARUANA GALIZIA Ritratt: Robert Agius

Quddiesa ccelebrata mill-Arcisqof Charles Jude Scicluna fit-tielet anniversarju mill-assassinju ta' Daphne Caruana Galizia, fil-Knisja tal-Familja Mqaddsa, il-Bidnija. Qabel il-Quddiesa, l-Arcisqof talab fil-post fejn twettaq l-assassinju fil-Bidnija.

Fl-omelija, l-Arcisqof tkellem dwar il-mahfra, il-gustizzja u d-dover tal-memorja, u kkwota partijiet mill-enciklika ricenti tal-Papa Frangisku *Fratelli Tutti*. "Il-Papa qed jghidilna li tkun ingustizzja ma' Daphne li ninsewha. Imma daqstant iehor tkun ingustizzja mal-memorja taghha jekk ahna nitilfu d-dinjità taghna minhabba r-rabja tat-telfa u minhabba d-dulur. Infittxu l-gustizzja fil-verità u fl-istess hin nirrispettaw id-dinjità taghna billi nesigu li kulhadd jigi ttrattat sew u bil-gustizzja, imma bil-verità."

L-Arcisqof qal li l-kelma tal-Papa tinterpella l-kuxjenza taghna lkoll, inkluz dawk li qed imexxu l-istituzzjonijiet taghna, speċjalment l-awtoritajiet li qed jinvestigaw l-assassinju ta' Caruana Galizia u l-kuntest li fih twettaq l-assassinju. "Ahna wkoll ghandna d-dover nissielu biex tirbah il-verità u biex l-ambjent li ppermetta li xi hadd jahseb li ghandu d-dritt jelimina fizikament avversarju tremend, bhalma kienet Daphne, jispicca. Allahares jibqa' fostna dak il-velenu ta' impunità, ta' arroganza sottili li jgaghhalna nahsbu li ghandna l-poter fuq il-hajja ta' xi hadd, skomdu kemm hu skomdu. Il-Mulej jaghtina l-ghef biex nifhmu l-kelma tal-Papa fic-cirkustanzi attwali taghna u ma ninsew qatt."



MALTIN LIVING ABROAD

If you have a story to tell
share it with others

Send it to us
maltesejournal@gmail.com

AUSTRALIAN AMERICAN ASSOCIATION (Victoria)

Hope this email finds you, your family and friends all very well.

When I started to write this email earlier in the week, I commenced with "we are now hopefully on the road to seeing our Victorian restriction further easing". However, it's now looking like this isn't going to be the case, as the average of 5 cases a day is unlikely to be achieved. One can only hope that those who made a selfish decision to go and party at St Kilda Beach, along with those poor souls that travelled outside of their 5km limit because their GPS mislead them, are not the cause of further outbreaks. It has been a hard time for everyone and it doesn't make it easier when you see those that seem to think that they are above the law impacting our freedom!

For me, the hardest part, asides from not being able to see my family, is not catching up with you and other members and friends of the Association. Boy have I missed our functions and get togethers. Halloween and Thanksgiving are not that far away and, I don't know about you, but I was truly hoping that we could have been able to be together for Thanksgiving! I was even in the process of planning a function, but at this stage, it doesn't look like we will be allowed to make it happen. I wanted us to be together so that we could all give

thanks and hope for each other. Then Halloween, I cannot help remembering how

much fun we had at last year's Halloween. I live in hope that we might be able to just catch up for a Christmas drink.

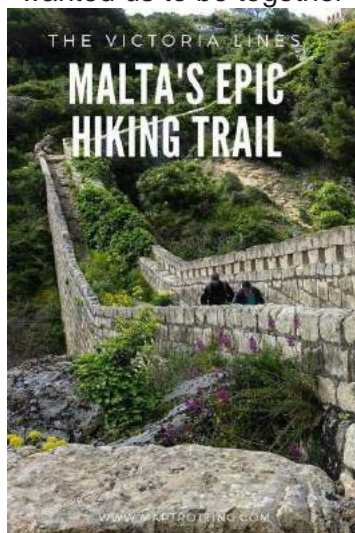
While I remember, please note that if you wish to email me, the best email is now samcjm747@gmail.com as been having too much trouble with Telstra and Bigpond that I am in the process of slowing changing everything to another provider after some 30years plus of being a loyal support of Telstra. Today loyalty doesn't seem to count.

Anyway, more importantly, we are already commencing some big plans for the Association in 2021 which we will be announcing via a long-awaited newsletter and we will keep you updated in relation to the Christmas Party and if, by any chance, a thanksgiving function.

Once again hope this email finds you and your family very well.

Take care, stay well and safe.

Sam CJ Muscat JP President Australian American Association (Vic)



Victoria Lines at Bingemma.

The major British fortification in Malta is the one known as the **Victoria Lines** which spans a 12 km stretch between Madliena/Bahar ic-Caghaq to the East and Kuncizzjoni/Fomm ir-Rih to the West. This fortified system consists of four forts, a number of gun batteries and an unbroken infantry line which connects them

The Great Wall of Malta

Fortifications, bastions, cavaliers, curtains, ravelins – so many names in Malta for stone walls. Here, Leslie Vella points his camera and his attention at a wall less often mentioned in guide-books but that's historically and geographically fascinating all the same. A wall you can walk as well!

together to form a continuous defence which stretches from east coast to west coast and effectively cuts Malta into a northern and a southern half.

Why the wall? - When the British arrived in Malta in 1800 their major task was to afford as much protection as was possible to the Grand Harbour area, particularly in view of the great technological advances made by artillery which could launch shells from a far greater distance than was the norm when the Knights built the complex fortifications around Valletta and the Three Cities.

Their major preoccupation was with the exposed sandy beaches in the north of Malta which were then seen as a strategic nuisance rather than the tourism and leisure asset they are today. Their fear was that an enemy landing in the undefended north of Malta could establish an artillery line which could inflict major damage on the harbour installations.

Where's the wall - After considering many options they finally decided to capitalise on a natural fault line which neatly cuts Malta into two parts at the place of

its maximum width and to construct a fortified line thereby protecting the populated south from the undeveloped and exposed north. We still travel up and down this fault via various major roads in Malta such as the Bahar ic-Caghaq Coast Road between Splash and Fun and White Rocks, it-Telgha ta' Alla w Ommu in Naxxar and Targa Gap Road outside Mosta among others.

What is the wall - This defensive system was built and developed over a 29-year period between 1870 and 1899 and was originally called the North West Front. It was eventually re-christened the Victoria Lines in 1897 to commemorate Queen Victoria's diamond jubilee. The Victoria Lines consist of four forts (Pembroke, Madliena, Mosta and Bingemma) together with an unbroken low-walled infantry line linking Forts Madliena, Mosta and Bingemma along the course of the fault. The wall is a relatively unimpressive two-metre high affair in most places, but its main objective was to enable defending soldiers to fire down on the enemy below from their protected vantage point in the ridge around 150 metres above.

Why the wall is important to us today - To the military history aficionado, the Victoria Lines provide yet another dimension to Malta's millennial history as a strategically located island. They are a logical extension of the defensive works developed by the Knights and shows the extent of what lengths those who valued Malta's location were ready to go to, to defend it from falling into enemy hands. It is a major, military architecture undertaking built before the advent of heavy machinery and still stands relatively unscathed

today, more than one hundred years after it was completed.

For those who are less interested in military matters, the Victoria Lines sit atop some of Malta's highest ground, some 200 metres above sea level, and a walk along them affords excellent views of the entire northern half of the island together with Gozo and Comino. Even distant Sicily is clearly visible on crisp winter days. Another bonus associated with a walk along the Lines is that they are set along some beautiful countryside which is generally free from excessive development. Beautiful walks are possible near Gharghur, on the Dwejra Lines overlooking Mosta and Mgarr and between Bingemma and Fomm ir-Rih. Like a lot of our ancestors' major efforts aimed at protecting Malta from invasion, the Victoria Lines were never tested in war. They however remain as a legacy to times gone by when conflict around our shores was a daily reality and when war, or the prospect of war, brought economic prosperity while peace brought depression and hunger. I also value the Victoria Lines because they have probably, unwittingly, constrained development in Malta to the southern half whilst ensuring that the northern half remained relatively emptier. Having been built to resist invasion from the north to the south, their major achievement has been to suppress development from breaching their unbroken line and invading the north! For this we should be grateful as it has ensured that in spite of living on one of the most densely-populated territories on the planet we still have a beautiful, open countryside which is there for all to enjoy.



Jim Borg, Home Director Fr. Martin Micallef and Marisa Privitera

Friends of Divine Providence House Group NSW Australia

The Friends of Providence House of New South Wales, Australia, which was formed in 2011 to promote and raise funds in Australia for *Dar tal-Providenza*, The group has already donated thousands of dollars to the residential home in Siggiewi for disabled people.

www.dartalprovidenza.org

The Group was founded in October 2011 with the aim of raising funds for Id-Dar tal-Providenza, Malta. The current structure is as follows: Mr Jim Borg, Co-

ordinator/Treasurer, Ms Marisa Privitera, Secretary.

The Friends of Providence House is the official Ambassador to Id-Dar tal-Providenza in New South Wales, Australia. The Friends of Providence House NSW Appeal In Aid of Id-Dar Tal – Providenza in Malta. Donations can be made at any Commonwealth Bank in Australia :

Account name : Friends Of Providence House NSW

BSB 062416 A/C 10199448 Please supply contact details for acknowledgement. or call Jim Borg: 96367767 / 0418825591. They can also be contacted on email: foph@bigpond.com

WATCH YOUR LANGUAGE - IT'S DYING MULTILINGUALISM IS BEAUTIFUL

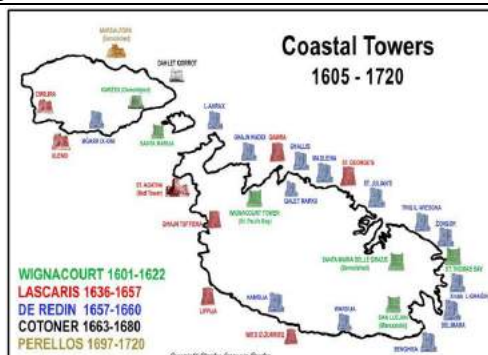
MULTILINGUALISM

IS BEAUTIFUL



The world's 6004 languages are dying off quickly and up to half of them will probably become extinct during the next century, experts predict. "I call this a catastrophe - the rate of loss of mankind's linguistic diversity," said Michael Krauss of the University of Alaska. The forces conspiring against native tongues now seem to be largely electronic. Satellite television, cellular mobiles and the Internet all let people speak to each other instantly all over the world.

However, linguists urge the preservation of small languages as second, or even third, languages, rather than allowing them to be swallowed up by English, Chinese, Arabic, Spanish and other major languages. We should care. The world will be less interesting, less beautiful. It is said that in prehistoric times, humans probably spoke between 10,000 and 15,000 languages. This is now down to about 6000 and dropping fast.



TORRI XUTU: FROM UNDER THE COMMAND OF THE TORRIERO TO UNDER THE WATCH OF THE COAST POLICE

Dotting the Maltese islands are some 27 watchtowers, strategically placed to provide the archipelago with a robust defence system during the time of the knights. While some of the original structures were either demolished or collapsed after falling into disuse, many of them have stood the test of time and the fury of the elements to become iconic features of the Maltese coastal landscape. Looking out in Filfla's direction in Wied iż-Żurriq is one of these structures; Ta' Xutu Tower, which was recently restored by [Din l-Art Helwa](#) with the support of [The Malta Airport Foundation](#). Whilst restoration works have been completed, The Malta Airport Foundation is working towards getting the necessary permits to carry out landscaping works around the tower, with the aim of turning the surrounding area into a well-kept open space.

To learn more about these watchtowers, we spoke with Dr Stanely Farrugia Randon. A doctor by profession with a penchant for researching about Malta's environmental and cultural history, Dr Farrugia Randon has been a council member of Din l-Art Helwa for the past 26 years, during which he has been involved actively in the management of restoration projects.

Even the towers that are very similar in appearance, have internal and external differences, which probably reflect the preferences of the Grand Master or the architects involved in their construction. The majority of the small coastal towers are set on two floors, with the lower one having been used for ammunition and the upper one having accommodated the soldiers on duty. Towers such as Wignacourt in St Paul's Bay also house a kitchen and a toilet, and towers including San Luċjan, St Agatha and St Thomas are bigger and even more complex,

having large cisterns to store water for bigger troops positioned within them for long periods when the island would be under siege.

All of these watchtowers had to be guarded and armed, both during the day and in the night, in preparation for the eventuality of an enemy fleet attempting disembarkation. Whilst the Grand Masters and the knights donated money for the running of these look-out posts, and affixed their coats of arms to the buildings, it was the Maltese who guarded them. The number of guards deployed depended on the location and the size of the tower. A bombardier who was trained in firing cannons would be present, especially during difficult times, and very often there would also be a Torriero, who was considered to be the commander of the place. However, in reality, often there would not be enough men to guard each post, leading to the abandonment of some of the towers soon after their construction.



Small coastal towers such as the ones in Ġnejna (Lippija Tower), Qawra, St George's Bay and Ġhajn Tuffieħa were built during the reign of Grand Master Lascaris with roofs that were not robust enough to carry the weight of a cannon and withstand its recoil. Whilst Ta' Xutu was also built under Lascaris's reign, its vaulted upper floor furnished it with enough structural sturdiness to have a cannon on its roof, essentially enabling the tower to defend itself and act as a relay station signalling enemy approach. This structure was a success, so much so that Ta' Xutu served as the prototype of the towers that were built by

Lascaris's successor; De Redin. It is interesting to note that whilst Lascaris's towers were paid for out of the people's taxes, De Redin paid for the construction and woodwork of his 13 towers himself; a total that amounted to slightly over 6428 scudi.

During this time, the tower was used as a coast observation post, and was manned by the Coast Police. Ta' Xutu was, in fact, used as a police station until 2002, when it was abandoned. During the time of the war, most of the watchtowers were used by military or naval authorities.



CUTE MALTESE WORDS

Chucky Bartolo

PUPA/PUPU - The Maltese version of *doll*, usually used when calling or encouraging children. "Ejja pupa, l-aħħar ftiit" - any adult trying to convince a little girl to finish her broccoli/homework.

ĦANINI - "Darling" No, not the spreadable cheese or a boat. Ħanini is usually reserved for beings of great cuteness (i.e. all animals and some babies). "Ħanini! Irrid wieħed bħalu!" - any human watching a video of a baby sloth.

TEŻOR - "Treasure" Although this term of endearment hasn't been widely used since the knights roamed freely through our streets (in the flesh, not spectral form), calling anyone a treasure is an endearing thing indeed.

QALBI - "My Heart" Although it lacks any sense when translated literally, 'my heart' is one of Malta's most common (and sweetest) terms of endearment used for children, friends and significant others. **Things get dark when...**

It's used following a deep sigh. Nothing spells disappointment quite like a condescending look and a short 'qalbi...'

DUDU/DUDA - "Worm" Although at face value calling someone a worm may not seem like the sweetest of terms, but it's probably one of those that developed out of the love-you-so-much-it's-cool-if-we-insult-each-other school of thought.

SABIĦ/SABIĦA - "Hello beautiful!" - not much room for offence here, right? Wrong. **Things get dark when** 'Eh' is tacked on the end, then it's suddenly 'sabiĦ eh!' and morphs into one of the most sarcastic phrases ever. Also if you're called a *sabiĦ/a* in traffic, the other driver you just cut off is in no way exchanging pleasantries.

Other common terms are: **XBIN u SIEHBI** - "mate"

IMHOBBOK - I love you

SAHHA - cheers! bye · health.

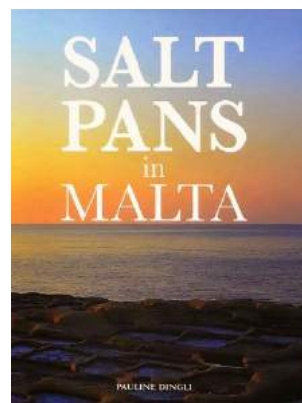
National Book Council (Malta)

SALT PANS IN MALTA

Pauline Dingli

In the beginning... there was the sun, sea, and salt! The warm, dry summers and seawater surrounding the Maltese Islands were two major factors that made these islands ideal for extracting sea salt. The Salt flats and the hollows in the rocks were first to host salt crystals when this mineral was important in food preservation. From rock pits they developed to larger shapes and eventually systems with channels, warming pans, reservoirs, wells, overflows and much more. This study is the result of several years of research, field works and interviews, and it documents all salt pans on the Islands in a quantitative and qualitative manner. There are 14,000 known uses of salt worldwide. We use it in food, clothing, medicine, cleaning agents, cosmetics and much more. Humans and animals cannot live without it. Salt freshly collected from shallow pans is best tasting and healthy salt one can consume. This gives reason why the salt pans on the Maltese shores still has a purpose.

You may buy this book at: <https://bdlbooks.com/product/salt-pans-in-malta/>



L-Għaqda tal-Kittieba tal-Malti twaqqfet mit sena ilu, fl-1920, bil-hidma ta' Gużè Muscat Azzopardi, Frangisku Saverju Caruana, Dun Karm Psaila, Ninu Cremona u xi oħrajn.



Fix-xahar ta' Ottubru ta' kull sena,
l-Akkademja tal-Malti tfakkar lil Dun Karm,
il-Poeta Nazzjonali



Carmen Borg mill-Awstralja- nitqalla u nitnikket nisma nies ta' kull kwalita ihanzru, jirwu, jaghfgu u jfarrku l-Malti. Iktar kliem Ingliż u Taljan u kliem barrani maghwweg u sfurzat għal Malti mill-kliem Malti tajjeb.

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Tahdem biex iggib 'il quddiem il-qagħda tal-Malti bħala Isien nazzjonali fl-oqsma kollha tal-hajja



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MARSASKALA Wied il-Ghajn

In the year 1905 the population of Marsaskala was just 53. The population today is in the region of 9,200. Since the area is so accessible by sea, successive conquering armies came ashore here and set about taking the land, and slaves. Marsaskala was once a Roman Port. Roman remains lie scattered at 'tar-Rumi', where pre-Roman cart ruts have been noticed. Though the area is partly ringed by tall white cliffs, the smooth inlets offered easy access to 16th and 17th century invaders.



The defences of the area was late in coming and Vendome Battery dates from about 1715. Vendome was a French Knight. Some of the residents built their own towers, and fortified farmhouses are quite frequent. Even after the area was finally fortified residents still remained few and Sicilian fishermen were more familiar with the area than the Maltese were. The name Marsaskala confirms the Sicilian connection as apparently the word 'marsa' means 'port' and 'sqalli' means 'Sicilian'

One probable reason for the lack of settlements in the area was the fear of pirates, who roamed the sea looking for treasure, and slaves. The local population felt safer in the walled cities of Cottonera and Valletta and also in the inland villages. Another reason may well have had something to do with the geography. The well sheltered harbour could not by itself discouraged people from settling here.

The harbour extended into the Fawwara district until the 19th century, which provided even more shelter. A spring is known to have existed here and 'Wied il-Ghajn' means "watercourse by the fountain", but there is no trace of it today. The rugged coastline around Marsaskala is indeed a delight to see, but it has been the site of several ship wrecks. The most recent one being of the "Angel Gabriel" which was a Greek Tanker that split in half on September 23rd 1969. Marsaskala remained a tiny fishing port until the advent of the 2nd World War. The people living in Cottonera started to build summer houses in Marsaskala. Then later they decided to become all year round residents, which has slowly transformed the small sleepy fishing port of Marsaskala into the resort that it is today

Established a parish since 1949, the population is just about doubling every ten years or so. There are modern hotels, restaurants, cafes, a duck pond and a cinema. The atmosphere is akin to an upbeat seaside resort. The mood is so relaxed here that the favourite pastime is walking along the promenade that stretches all the way around the bay from Żonqor Point around to the Jerma Palace Hotel, with stops on the way for drinks and snacks. These walks usually take place in the evenings as its a lot cooler than during the day when its just too warm to contemplate walking, and the day is usually spent in and around the cafes and restaurants.



MALTESER SLICE - 10 MINUTE NO-BAKE RECIPE

Ingredients

- 125 g butter -
- 395 g sweetened condensed milk -
- 2 tbs cocoa powder -
- 250 g plain sweet biscuits like Arnotts Marie -
- 2 cups (60g) rice bubbles -
- 280 g Maltesers -
- 200 g white chocolate - 2 tbs coconut oil or vegetable

oil/copha, melted (optional)

Instructions

Conventional Method

1. Line a 18cm X 28cm rectangular baking tray with baking paper.
2. Melt the butter, condensed milk and cocoa in the microwave on 50% power until melted. Whisk until smooth.

3. Crush biscuits in a food processor.
4. Stir the crushed biscuits, rice bubbles and 1 cup halved Maltesers (leave the remaining Maltesers for decorating the top of the slice) through the melted butter/sweetened condensed milk and cocoa mixture. Mix until completely combined.



5. Press firmly into tray.
6. Melt the white chocolate and coconut oil in the microwave in 30 second bursts (50% power), stirring each time until smooth. Pour over slice.
7. Press the remaining Maltesers into the chocolate.
8. Store in the fridge for up to 1 week.

Thermomix Method

1. Line a 18cm X 28cm rectangular baking tray with baking paper.
2. Place the biscuits into the Thermomix bowl and crush on Speed 8 for 10 seconds. Set aside.
3. Place the butter, condensed milk and cocoa into the Thermomix bowl and melt on Speed 2, 50 degrees for 3 minutes (or until completely melted).
4. Add the crushed biscuits, rice bubbles and 1 cup of halved Maltesers. Mix on Reverse Speed 3 for 15 seconds or until completely combined.
5. Press firmly into tray.
6. Break the white chocolate into the Thermomix bowl, add the coconut oil and melt on Speed 2, 50 degrees, 3 minutes.
7. Press the remaining Maltesers into the chocolate.
8. Store in the fridge for up to 1 week.

Recipe Notes

Maltesers - Maltesers are a brand of malted milk flavoured crispy balls covered in milk chocolate manufactured by Mars.

Types Of Cookies To Use: You can use any type of plain sweet cookies for the base (like graham crackers if you're in the US, Arnott's Marie biscuits if you're in Australia or digestive biscuits).

Rice bubbles - you can use any brand of puffed rice in this recipe.

Equipment - you will need a microwave, stove-top or Thermomix for melting the ingredients. You will also need a food processor, rolling pin or Thermomix to crush the biscuits.

Storing the slice - Malteser Slice can be stored in an airtight container in the fridge for up to 1 week or frozen for up to 1 month. Note that the rice bubbles will soften over time.

Cutting the slice - Use a small, sharp serrated knife to gently score through the chocolate layer and then use a large flat knife to press down through the base.



**THE MOST SUCCESSFUL
MALTESE-AUSTRALIAN
NEWSPAPER**

GONE BUT NOT FORGOTTEN

The first edition of the Maltese-Australian newspaper THE MALTESE HERALD was published on 28 July 1961, when Nicholas Bonello, Vincent Pisani and Lawrence Dimech, its first editor, got together to launch the newspaper intended to serve the Maltese community in Australia.



Second Edition of *The Maltese Herald*

The publication of the newspaper followed the mass migration from Malta to Australia of the 1950s and 1960s. Thousands of Maltese immigrants settled on the eastern coast of the vast continent, particularly in Sydney and Melbourne. The Maltese formed their own social groups and football clubs, with Melita Eagles FC formed in Sydney and George Cross FC in Melbourne. These community organisations were critical in assisting the new immigrants to settle in their new country of adoption, following the traumatic experience of leaving their

loved ones behind in Malta.

The Maltese Herald played a very important role in providing the Maltese community with information that was of interest, voicing community concerns and fighting for the rights of the Maltese community in Australia, while also maintaining a link with Malta. The articles covered social services, housing schemes and dual-citizenship issues among other topics.

The first ten years of the newspaper were not easy because at that time it was done in manual pagination, when typesetting relied on lead blocks and none of the linotype operators and setters were Maltese-literate. It was the sheer determination of the editors and staff that eventually guaranteed the newspaper's success.

The Maltese Herald succeeded two other Maltese publications, *Leġen il-Malti* and the *Malta News*, which were discontinued after a short life. Manwel Pisani and Lino Vella joined *The Maltese Herald* team in Australia, while Joseph Xerri provided assistance from Malta.

When Dimech left his editorial post Ġorġ Chetcuti took on the role of editor for a few months, until Mr Vella, the paper's editor for 40 years, became editor. He was supported by his late wife Barbara and Rita Kassas.

The 24-page bilingual newspaper has had its fair share of ups and downs in its 50-year history, more recently grappling with the rapid evolution and proliferation of modern means of electronic communication, the increased lack of support from business and industry and an ageing Maltese population in Australia. The newspaper has no plans at this time to go online as it believes that the print media is still the most effective means of communication for those who really want to analyse news, views and opinions.



BUILDING BRIDGES BETWEEN COMMUNITIES

**A nation's culture resides in the heart, mind and soul
of its people.** *Mahatma Gandhi*

Athletics Malta at World Half Marathon Championships



her small-state rival from Cyprus. She finished with a time of 1'18"43.

In the men's event, Stefan Azzopardi and Charlton Debono raced side by side up until the 15km mark, until the more experienced Debono, in his third edition of these World Championships, had a little extra in tank to be able to kick in the final phase of the race.

Debono completed the

Despite a chilly Baltic morning in Gydnia, Poland, race in a time of 1'08"51, while Azzopardi Malta's representatives in the World Half clocked 1'09"18, a personal best for him.

Marathon Championships did the country proud For Debono, this time was his second fastest time with a number of remarkable performances on an official course and his seasonal best.

alongside some of the world's best runners on the distance. The winners of this year's World Championship were Uganda's Jacob Kiplimo and Kenya's Peres Jepchirchir.

The national Maltese team donning a brand-new running kit, was represented by Joelle Cortis, Lisa In his first reaction at the end of the race, Andy Bezzina, Stefan Azzopardi and Charlton Debono. Grech, president of Athletics Malta, said: "An

Due to Covid-19 restrictions, the 21.1km race incredible performance by all our athletes. And to took place in a restricted area of the city, around think that a few months ago, we were unsure whether this edition would happen or not."

times. "Albeit the tough time we faced this year, Athletics Malta tried its absolute best to prepare its long-distance athletes at the highest of levels.

The route consisted of a number of sharp bends, making it a rather unlikely race for record-breaking.

It was a memorable day for Joelle Cortis, a mother of three, who returned to international duty after technical with different sharp bends and long 11 years, who achieved a personal best of elevations. Otherwise we surely would have brought home another two national records along with our two personal bests."

1'19"28, an improvement of over a minute on her previous time. The evergreen Lisa Bezzina ran her heart out and ended the grueling race with a sprint finish against



We are proud of our Maltese Achievers

Promoting the Maltese culture, history and heritage



The British High Commission and British Council Malta

Last week, British High commissioner Her Excellency Cathy Ward, met with Ingrid Eomois who manages [British Council Malta](#)

.The British High Commission and [British Council](#) work closely together to promote cultural relations between Malta and the United Kingdom and offer educational opportunities. Such opportunities include British Council's [#StudyUKEurope](#) university fair in two days' time. Maltese students thinking of studying in the UK are encouraged to book now to join webinars and secure a meeting with the UK university where they want to study: <https://bit.ly/33hilPO>



THE NEW BRITISH HIGH COMMISSIONER Cathy Ward has presented her letters of commission as British High Commissioner to H.E. George Vella, President of Malta. The new British High Commissioner to Malta expressed her commitment of further deepening the bilateral

relations and working together for the common good of the citizens of Malta and the United Kingdom. She highlighted the strong relationship between Malta and the United Kingdom, pointing out the cultural and historical ties as being still alive and relevant.



The relentless work of carers in old peoples' homes, and of those whose work increases their risk of contracting the virus, such as teachers and educators, is highly appreciated.



H.E. George Vella
President of Malta

#Covid19

The Lion magazine (1964) passed on to the Maltese Journal by Leo Fotiou (Adelaide)

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20TH JUNE 1964
20th JUNE, 1964

LION
EVERY MONDAY 6^D

BADGES of the BRAVE

MALTA G.C.

1940, WORLD WAR II. DRONING OVER THE BLUE MEDITERRANEAN CAME WAVE AFTER WAVE OF BOMBERS, THE PRIDE OF ITALIAN DICTATOR MUSSOLINI'S AIR FORCE. THEIR PURPOSE—TO POUND THE TINY BRITISH-RULED ISLAND OF MALTA INTO RUBBLE. RISING TO MEET THE MASSIVE ATTACK CAME THREE OUT-OF-DATE GLOSTER GLADIATOR BIPLANES—MALTA'S ONLY DEFENCE! THE GLADIATORS' NAMES WERE FAITH, HOPE AND CHARITY.

FAITH, HOPE AND CHARITY HAD BEEN MALTA'S STRENGTH BEFORE, FOR THIS ISLAND WAS THE HOME OF THE FAMOUS KNIGHTS OF ST. JOHN, A RELIGIOUS ORDER WHICH HAD ORGANISED ITS DEFENCE AGAINST A HUGE TURKISH INVASION IN 1565. THE GREAT SIEGE LASTED FOR FOUR MONTHS...

CONTINUED ON BACK PAGE.

FAITH, HOPE AND CHARITY — THE ISLAND'S STRENGTH!